

**Jefferson-Madison-Silver  
Bow FSA County Office**  
3 Whitetail Rd  
Whitehall, MT 59759

**County Committee Members**

Cindy Sue Ashcraft, Chair  
Marion Johns, Vice Chair  
Charlene Berryman, Member  
Janet Endecott, Member  
Heath Rieder, Member

**FSA Office Personnel**

Bonita Kober, CED  
Kathleen Ballard, PT  
Amanda Lucas, PT  
Terrie Casagrande, TF  
Alan Jenne, FLM

Dates to Remember:

**NAP Pull-Off Date** – April 15  
(Jefferson & Silver Bow) May 1  
(Madison)

**May 1** – Pick up map packets

**May 1** – Acreage report appt  
cards will be mailed

**May 15-Aug. 1** – Primary  
nesting season

**May 31** – Final loan/LDP  
availability date for Corn, Dry  
peas, Grain sorghum, Lentils,  
Mustard seed, Safflower seed,  
Small chickpeas, Soybeans,  
and Sunflower seed harvested  
in 2006

**July 16** – Acreage Reporting  
Deadline



# Jefferson-Madison-Silver Bow

## April 2007

### 2007 Final Year of DCP Program Under 2002 Farm Bill

**The sign-up deadline for the 2007 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program has been extended from June 1 to August 3, 2007.**

The decision to extend the deadline was made as a result of earlier computer networking problems that hampered FSA's ability to process DCP enrollments. Enrollment in DCP for the 2007 contract period began on October 1, 2006.

The extension applies only to the enrollment time frame and does not extend the annual DCP contract period beyond September 30, 2007. A late-file fee of \$100 will be assessed for farms that are enrolled after August 3, 2007 but no later than September 30, 2007. Applications filed after September 30, 2007 cannot be approved.

Direct Payments are based on a farm's historical commodity bases and yields. For crop year 2007, an advance payment of 22 percent may be requested with the final payment to be issued in October.

Counter-cyclical payments are made to producers when the effective price for eligible commodities is less than the target price.

We encourage you to sign up early to avoid the \$100 late file fee. Contact the office to set up an appointment.

### 2007 Acreage Reports

It is time to certify your planted acres and all acreage reports need to be accurate and filed by the final reporting date of July 16, 2007. **Certification is mandatory if any of the following apply:**

- ◆ You receive DCP payments
- ◆ You have acres enrolled in CRP
- ◆ Loans or LDP's will be requested; including Wool, Mohair and Honey

**(All cropland on the farm must be certified to be eligible for DCP and loan program benefits).**

- ◆ Acreage is covered by NAP

All acreage reports need to be filed by the final reporting date of **July 16, 2007**. Failure to report accurately may result in loss of program and price support benefits.

## Conservation Compliance

Federal regulations discourage the production of crops on highly erodible cropland unless the land is protected from erosion by an approved conservation system. Status reviews are conducted to ensure producers follow a conservation plan on highly erodible land.

In addition to the highly erodible land, a person may not plant an agricultural commodity on wetland converted after Dec. 23, 1985, or convert a wetland to make agricultural production possible after Nov. 28, 1990.

Failure to comply with these provisions will cause a person to be ineligible for USDA benefits. County Committees may review noncompliance situations for good faith and provide relief in approved cases.

## Do you have enough storage for your harvest?

*Before* harvest is the best time to prepare for harvest!

FSA can make loans to help you build or upgrade your farm storage and handling facilities.

Loans can be made for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. Eligible facilities include:

- New conventional-type cribs or bins designed and engineered for whole grain storage and having a useful life of at least 10 years;
- New oxygen limiting and other upright silo-type structures designed for whole grain storage or other than whole grain wet storage having a useful life of at least 10 years;
- Re-manufactured oxygen-limiting storage structures built to original manufacturer's design specifications using original manufacturer's rebuild kits having a useful life of at least 10 years;

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**2007 Map packets can be picked up on or after May 1, 2007. Otherwise, you can fill out the maps when you come in for your acreage report appointment. Appointment cards will be mailed out beginning May 1.**

## Do you have enough storage for your harvest? (cont.)

- New structures that are upright, bunker-type, horizontal, or open silo structures with at least 2 concrete walls and a concrete floor, designed for whole grain storage or other than whole grain storage having a useful life of at least 10 years;
- New permanently affixed grain handling and drying equipment determined by FSA to be needed and essential to the proper functioning of a grain storage system, with or without a loan for storage structures;
- Existing storage can be renovated according to FSA regulations with or without an increase in storage capacity;
- New electrical equipment, such as lighting and motors integral to the proper operation of grain storage and handling equipment, excluding the installation of electrical service to the electrical meter;
- New equipment to improve, maintain or monitor the quality of stored grain;
- Safety equipment as required by CCC; and,
- New flat-type storage structures, including a permanent concrete floor and bulkheads, designed for and primarily used to store whole grain for the term of the loan.

The maximum loan amount of any farm storage facility loan shall be 85 percent of the net cost of the applicant's needed storage or handling equipment not to exceed \$100,000 for each borrower signing the note and security agreement.

The maximum term of the loan is 7 years.

The interest rate for each loan will remain in effect for the term of the loan. Contact the office for further information.

## Removing CCC Loan Collateral

Producers are reminded, if you have grain under Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) loan it cannot be removed or disposed of without prior FSA county office staff authorization or repayment. The county office staff may issue release authorizations based on a telephone or in person request when you are ready to move the grain. A loan violation is subject to monetary and administrative penalties, such as repaying the loan at principal plus interest, liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans and loan deficiency payments.

All commodity loans are subject to spot check. Locking in a market loan repayment rate is not a marketing authorization. If you are planning to move CCC loan grain, contact the county office staff for additional information.

## Farm Loans for Minority Groups

FSA can make direct and guarantee loans to groups considered as minorities under USDA definition. These groups include women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, and Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Funds can be used to buy and operate family-sized farms and ranches.

Individuals and entities primarily and directly engaged in farming and ranching on family-sized operations may apply. A family-sized farm is considered to be one that a family can operate and manage itself. Applicants must meet all requirements for FSA's regular farm loan program assistance. Contact the FSA office for exact criteria.

Repayment terms for direct operating loans depend on the collateral securing the loan and usually run from 1 to 7 years. Interest rates for direct loans are set periodically according to the Government's cost of borrowing. Repayment terms for direct farm ownership loans are up to 40 years. Interest rates for guaranteed loans are established by the lender. Applications for direct loans are made through the local FSA office. Applications for guaranteed loans are made with the lender.

## Youth Summer Camps Available

### **Montana Envirothon –**

Lewistown,  
April 23 & 24,  
2007.

Contact Shonny Nordlund at 406/538-7401, ext. 101  
[shonny.nordlund@mt.nacdnet.net](mailto:shonny.nordlund@mt.nacdnet.net)



**Montana Range Days –** Conrad, June 18-20, 2007. Contact Kody Farkell at 406/278-7611 ext. 101 for further information.

### **Montana Youth Range Camp –**

Roundup, July 23-27, 2007. Contact the Lower Musselshell Conservation District at 406/323-2103.

### **Montana Natural Resources Youth**

**Camp –** Lubrecht Experimental Forest northeast of Missoula, July 22-27, 2007. Contact your local Conservation District.

For complete camp information logon to the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation web site at: <http://www.dnrc.mt.gov/cadd/camps/default.asp> or by calling 406/444-6667.

## 2007 Crop Loan Rates for Small Chickpeas, Dry Peas and Lentils

The 2007-crop dry pea loan rate for Montana is \$6.12 per cwt. The lentil loan rate for Montana is \$10.97 per cwt. USDA determined that there is insufficient reliable market information to establish regional loan rates for small chickpeas. The national rate of \$7.43 cwt applies for all producing areas.

Marketing assistance loans provide producers interim financing after harvest of their crop to meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows. A producer who is eligible to obtain a loan, but who agrees to forgo the loan, may obtain a loan deficiency payment (LDP).

**Jefferson-Madison-Silver Bow FSA Office**

3 Whitetail Rd  
Whitehall, MT 59759

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***Important Dates to Remember***

**NAP Pull-Off Date – date varies by county  
May 15-Aug. 1 – Primary nesting season  
May 31 – Final loan/LDP availability date for  
Corn, Dry peas, Grain sorghum, Lentils, Mustard  
seed, Safflower seed, Small chickpeas,  
Soybeans, and Sunflower seed harvested in 2006  
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**eAuthentication Contact Information**

The USDA eAuthentication Help Desk Support contact information has changed.

Contact information is as follows:

- For routine needs email: [eAuthHelpDesk@ftc.usda.gov](mailto:eAuthHelpDesk@ftc.usda.gov)
- For emergencies: 1-800-457-3642

The hours of operation are 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. eastern time Monday through Friday.

USDA provides their customers an opportunity to do business electronically 24 hours a day seven days a week over the Internet. To do business electronically a Level 2 account is needed. Should you need assistance in setting up this account, contact your local FSA office or logon to the Montana FSA website at [www.fsa.usda.gov/mt](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt), select "Online Services" and click on "Create an Account Page".